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Sarah Harford.

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H.R. Rep. No. 207, 23rd Cong., 1st Sess. (1834)

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SARAH HARFORD.

JANUARY 23, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. E. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of Sarah Harford, report :

That although the employment of her late husband by the United States is set forth in the petition, the only claim the petitioner presents is, for a large number of horned cattle, horses, hogs, and a quantity of corn, she says the American troops took, that belonged to her at the Maumee, in the year 1812, amounting to between four and five thousand dollars. This property was on a farm she occupied after the death of her husband, and from which she was obliged to flee, after the surrender of General Hull. She does not know how much of this property was used by the army, but she supposes the most of it; and she says she never received any thing for it, except one hundred and forty-one, or one hundred and forty-three dollars, which sum was paid to her by Major Spafford some time afterwards, and which she understood was paid on account of some corn. She has made no application before, and says she should not have done so now, but from the circumstance that she has lost her property by fire, and has a family depending on her for support. The petition is unaccompanied with any proof. The committee sent it to the Third Auditor, with a request that he would inform the committee whether there was any evidence in the department, either in favor of, or against the claim. His answer is received, and is referred to as a part of this report. There being no evidence to sustain the claim, the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the petitioner is not entitled to relief.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Third Auditor's Office, 30th December, 1833.

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, enclosing the petition of Sarah Harford, widow of Charles

Harford, and previously the widow of William Ewing, of Maumee, in the State of Ohio, and asking whether the department contains any evidence in support of or against the allegations in the petition. Your letter also states that it has been understood that when the Northwestern army took possession of the country at the Maumee, after Hull's surrender, General Harrison directed an account to be taken of the property in that quarter, which was used by the troops, designating to whom it belonged, the kind of property and its value, and expresses a desire to know if such was the fact, whether the petitioner's property was so taken and appraised.

In the petition I observe she has represented that after the surrender of General Hull, she fled from her place of residence in the vicinity of Fort Meigs, leaving behind cattle, horses, hogs, corn, grain, vegetables, &c., of the value of between 4 and \$5,000, the whole of which was totally lost to her; that the principal part of the cattle, horses, and hogs, were, after she left the country, taken and made use of by the American troops; that her corn and other produce were also, as she was informed, taken and made use of in the same way, excepting, perhaps, some of the stock and grain, which might have been taken and destroyed by the British and Indians; and that for all these losses she has never received any remuneration except \$141 or \$143, which she received from Major Spafford.

In the record of reports of the accountant of the War Department, an entry appears, of which the following is a copy:

MARCH 1, 1816.

3869.

I certify that there is due to Amon Spafford, and other citizens of Champaign county, Ohio, who have empowered him to act in their behalf, eight thousand four hundred and eighty-six dollars and fifty-two cents, being an allowance made them by the Secretary of War, for their corn, which was taken and made use of by order of the general officers commanding the Northwestern army of the United States, at the Miami rapids, in the winter of 1815.

T. I.

\$3,486 52.

The SECRETARY of War.

The names of the other citizens do not appear, and whether or not the papers connected with this report included such an account as you have alluded to, there are now no means of ascertaining, as these papers and numerous others, relating to the settlements made by the accountant, were destroyed in the late conflagration of the Treasury building. No such one is recollected to have been seen with the vouchers of any of the disbursing officers whose accounts are on file in this office; and as a general search amongst them would necessarily occupy a great length of time, and might lead to no satisfactory result, I have refrained from causing it to be made under the circumstances of this case, which, it is to be observed, is (independent of the objection to which the before mentioned report renders it liable) unsupported by any certificates or other evidence whatever. The petition, besides, does not show that the farm, when abandoned by the peti-

tioner, was not left in charge of some other person, who may have obtained payment for property taken for the public use, in his own name. The petition is returned.

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

PETER HAGNER, *Auditor.*

The Hon. E. WHITTLESEY,

Chairman of the Com. of Claims, Ho. of Reps.